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## REACTION OF SATELLITE YOUTH TO REGIMENTATION

All the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe have long-term programs designed to control the training, indoctrination, and activities of the children and youth from an early age. These programs have achieved a high degree of success among the children in the 6 to 14 age group. In the second and much larger age group of 14 to 26 reaction ranges from apathy and distaste to enthusiastic support by a small minority, estimated to be between ten and fifteen percent.

The success that the Communists have attained among the younger children is due in large part to the fact that they are at an impressionable age and know of no other type of life. Parental instruction in the home and religious education by the church, except in Poland, are becoming less influential as deterrents to the program. Evidence of this is seen in the fear of parents that any antiregime statements they might make will be reported by their children to the authorities.

The breaking of family ties and the weakening of family influence by offering the children personal responsibility and independence from family discipline is reported by numerous observers to have contributed notably to the increasing acceptance by the children of Communist indoctrination. Additional factors, such as the provision of organized play groups

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and educational and material advantages to members of the children's group, further render them susceptible to Communist indoctrination and ideology.

Although there is no evidence of open resistance to the youth programs, the Communists have admittedly failed to achieve the success they desire within the age group from 14 through 26. Certain aspects of the youth programs such as mass sports programs, flying and gliding clubs, and parachute training unquestionably have appeal. Resort to such practices as regimentation, excessive ideological indoctrination, and forced "gratuitous" labor contributions, however, has definitely limited the Communists' success.

Several of the Satellite regimes have openly admitted such shortcomings. The Czech Government on 24 April ordered a sharp reduction in extra-curricular activities such as political agitation by teachers and students. The Hungarian Communist Party revealed last June that only 659,000 of approximately 1,812,000 young people had enrolled in the Federation of Working Youth. In Poland only 30 percent of the potential membership in the Union of Polish Youth has been enrolled, according to the party's official theoretical organ. A very substantial portion of East German refugees who reach West Berlin are reported to be young people.

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Reports from the rural areas of Eastern Europe reveal that the older youth have not been influenced by the Communists to any significant degree. During the Hungarian crop collection campaign last fall the youths working in agriculture were accused of being under the influence of kulaks and the clerical reaction. In Poland, less than ten percent of the peasant youth have joined the Union of Polish Youth.

The large membership of the youth organizations is accounted for by the fact that non-members are excluded from tangible benefits, including a formal education. Necessarily of a long range nature, the full effects of the Communist youth program will only become apparent over the next decade.